

PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 27.865. Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan. Change the management plan to allow the department to waive the catch allocation requirement for gillnet and purse seine fleets, as follows:

5 AAC 27.865 is amended to read:

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(b)(8) After the spawn-on-kelp harvest and the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery have been subtracted, the remaining harvestable surplus is allocated to the sac roe fishery. The department **may** [SHALL] manage for a removal of 30 percent of that surplus by the gillnet fleet and 70 percent by the purse seine fleet. To maintain those percentages inseason, the commissioner **may** [SHALL] make adjustments to fishing periods and fishing areas by emergency order. After the gillnet and purse seine fleet have harvested at least 50 percent of each gear group’s allocation, the commissioner may allow either fleet to harvest its remaining allocation without further restrictions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Delete the words “shall” and replace with “may”. The current low prices being paid for sac roe herring has resulted in a significant reduction in gillnet effort. Requiring the commissioner to manage for the 70/30 harvest of at least 50% of each gear’s allocation places additional unnecessary financial risks for all participants in a marginal profitable fishery in the best of conditions.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Heyano

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